GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2329
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN PANCHAYATS
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into any Memorandum of Understanding with the National Commission for Women for providing training in legal awareness to Women Panchayati Raj representatives in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Core Group comprising of the elected women representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and academicians has been constituted to draft a women's charter to deal with Panchayat related issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. This Ministry is yet to finalize the draft Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the Chairperson, National Commission for Women and Minister of Panchayati Raj encompassing the provision for imparting training in legal awareness to Women Panchayati Raj Representatives in the country. However, the Ministry has been funding civil society organizations and State Governments for carrying out training programmes for the elected representatives that includes modules for enhancing awareness of laws and rights.

(c), (d) & (e): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has initiated the Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan to strengthen the elected women of the PRIs within the overall rubric of the "Chalo Gaon Ki Ore" programme of the National Commission for Women. Core Groups are formed State-wise comprising selected EWRs, activists, academics, etc., nominated by the State Government/ Government of India to draft and facilitate a draft women's charter for the EWRs of the State stating therein their particular issues. As a follow up, in the States where Core Groups have been formed and the Committees have framed the draft charter, all women Zila Pramukhs, all women Pradhans of the Intermediate Panchayats and selected women Sarpanches from each district of the State, as well as Core Group members and some eminent personalities are invited to a two-day conference of Panchayat Women. A women's charter comprising all the major points distilled from the discussions with the women representatives of the PRIs is then finalized. So far the Core Groups have been formed and conferences of elected women representatives, activists, NGOs, eminent personalities have been held in eight States as under:

1. Udaipur(Rajasthan) - 23rd & 24th April, 2006
2. Patiala (Punjab) - 17th & 18th July, 2006
3. Bangalore (Karnataka) - 5th September, 2006
4. Dehradun (Uttarakhand) - 24th September, 2006
5. Imphal (Manipur) - 4th & 5th October, 2006
6. Panaji(Goa) - 19th October, 2006
7 Gangtok (Sikkim) - 26th & 27th April, 2007
8. Raipur (Chhattisgarh) - 26th & 27th July, 2007

Such conferences are planned for West Bengal on 1st & 2nd September, 2007 and Tripura on 12th & 13th September, 2007 and programmes in the remaining States will be scheduled as per the mutual convenience of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the State Government.